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Opioids: The Epidemic

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Opioids: The Epidemic

Jocelyn Covarrubias

Nebraska College Preparatory Academy

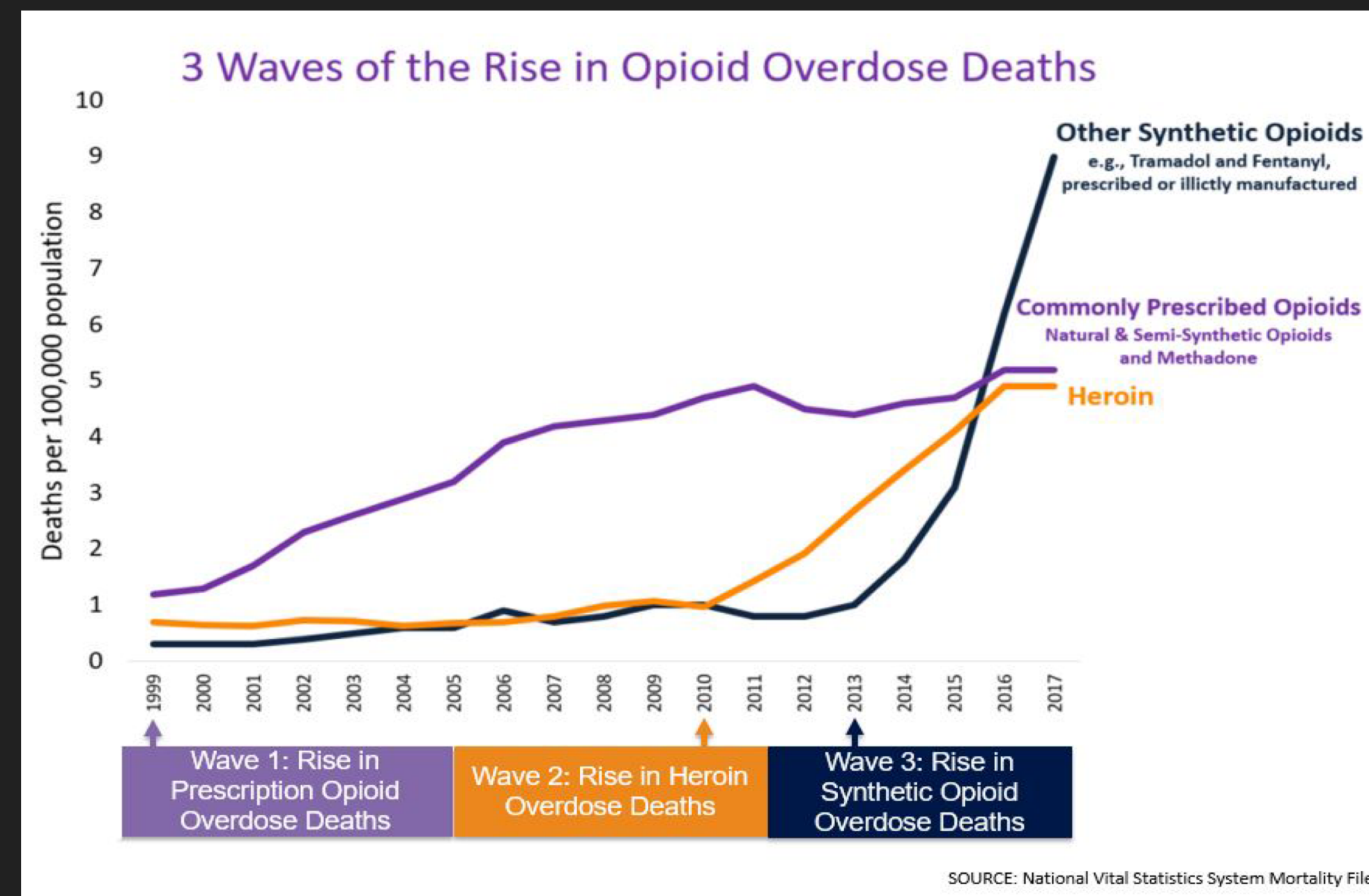
Grand Island Senior High School 2019

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Abstract

The new epidemic in the United States is a storm of the most powerful classification of drugs: opioids.

Opioids are one of the most helpful yet dangerously addictive painkillers in the world. Illegal prescriptions and street drugs like heroin have plummeted the United States into the worst drug epidemic in the last decade.



Conclusion

There has always been a demand for heroin but with this epidemic, the most abused and popular type of opioid are prescription painkillers.

These painkillers can be just as, or more, hazardous than heroin, so why can't doctors better control and regulate these prescriptions?

Key Points

- Heroin is an illicit drug but Hydrocode, Codeine, Fentanyl, etc., are not. They all require a prescription written from a doctor.
- Illegal prescriptions have played a big part in this epidemic. In 2012 alone, 259 million prescriptions were written, That is more than enough for every American adult to have their own pill bottle. (Johanson).
- Drug overdoses have become the leading cause of death for Americans under age 50. (Terrell).

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